

To Th British Mil. Court

Hamburg.

I. Gertrud FEIST, am born on 21.5.1918 at Neugebhardsdorf/Lauban. Since 1935, almost 9 1/2 year, I was spinner in the spinning mill of Mr. Hermann Teichgräber at Töhrsdorf/Löwenberg. During the war most of the spinners were drafted and replaced by foreign workers. Once the manager got 147 Jewish women under the condition, to take out of the spinning mill women overseers. I was one of them. On August 16th 1944 I had to participate on a course of 3 weeks at Langenbielau/Eulengebirge. Then I returned to my old working place. From the camp I had to bring the women into the spinning mill and back again; during the work I had to look after them too. In the camp I had nothing to do. As the front always came nearer and nearer, we had to bring the women to Kratzau/Sudetenland. (16.2.45.) There we got the order to transport the women right away to Beelsen. I tried to get released but in vain. I only was told, if I did not obey I knew, what would happen to me. During my whole life I knew nothing else but obedience. In Beelsen we arrived on 28.2.45 and I remained here 6 weeks. I never had seen such a big camp before and I terribly was impressed by it. By the daily newcomers the camp was so overfull, that terrible conditions prevailed and the prisoners were out of every discipline. I do not deny that I dealt out some ear-boxes but that was no ill-treatment and nobody died on it. On 17.5.45 I was arrested by British Troops and on 17.22.45 at Lüneburg to 5 years penal servitude, and that by declarations of prisoners, I never had seen in my life. On the trial I heard the first time how many camps existed, for I never had been away from my home village. Since 8.12.45 I am in the correction house, Hamburg-Fuhlsbüttel. I beg the Mil. Court to examine my sentence again and to grant ~~me~~ a mitigation of my sentence, that I can see again my old parents. My parents are old and fragile, my father 65 and not 64 years old. Both are evacuated and dwell now at Fürstenberg. When I was home yet, I always have supported them; my mother cannot work very much and when I came home in the afternoon, I always did the house work. The adress of my parents is Paul Feist Fürstenberg No 5/Holzminden.

Respectfully:

sgd: Gertrud Feist.